

Mr. Speaker, I enter into the RECORD an article by Jason Sohigian that appeared in my hometown newspaper, The Worcester Telegram and Gazette, describing why Armenians still seek justice for the 1915 genocide by the Ottomans.

Mr. Speaker, it is past time for the United States to recognize officially the Armenian genocide. There can be no justice without the truth. In the name of all humanity, let it happen now.

The article previously referred to is as follows:

[From the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, Apr. 23, 2002]

ARMENIANS STILL SEEK JUSTICE FOR 1915
GENOCIDE BY OTTOMANS
(By Jason Sohigian)

The Armenian genocide is still subject to a massive campaign of denial by modern Turkey and distortion by some of its allies, including Israel—much to the embarrassment of Jewish historians. While the rest of the world recognizes the systematic, premeditated nature of the Armenian genocide, Turkey continues to devote massive amounts of resources toward its policy of denial.

Often people wonder why the genocide, which happened so long ago, is still important to so many people so far away from the scene of the crime.

Why? Because Ottoman Turkey succeeded in annihilating more than half of the Armenian population of historic Armenia. Entire villages, towns and cities were wiped out. Families were killed and their property illegally confiscated. A 3,000-year-old indigenous culture was utterly disrupted and uprooted.

Not one Armenian family in the world remains untouched by this catastrophic event. Nearly every Armenian community leader, intellectual, and priest in the Ottoman Turkish capital, Istanbul, was rounded up on April 24, 1915, and massacred. That initiated the campaign of terror, and from that day forward nearly every Armenian family suffered losses throughout Ottoman Turkey.

My own grandfather witnesses the death of family members and lived as an orphan for many years until finally being reunited with the remnants of her family in the United States. My mother attempted to reconstruct my grandmother's story for the historical record while my grandmother was still able to remember what happened during those years.

Knowing that these few orphans managed to survive and regenerate into the Armenian community of today is truly an inspiration. I could not help but feel, both as an Armenian and as an heir to the tragedy, the tremendous sense of obligation to achieve justice for the Armenian people.

That is the meaning behind the efforts to achieve recognition for the Armenian genocide, 87 years after the fact. Armenians living in the diaspora ask their governments to recognize this event, and urge Turkey to do the same. Recognition of the genocide is a pan-Armenian concern, and following the independence of Armenia after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, even the Armenian government of today has made recognition a major part of its foreign policy agenda.

The issue of recognition has several aspects, among them a moral obligation, a political dimension and a legal component.

Because so much effort has been expended combating denial over the years, many related issues still have not been explored. Armenians worldwide are now raising the issue of reparations for land and other stolen Armenian property. Just recently, class-action

lawsuits were initiated against the New York Life and French Axa insurance companies, which sold policies in Ottoman Turkey to families and failed to pay the benefits to the heirs of those who were later massacred in the Armenian genocide.

Modern Turkey is the beneficiary of its Ottoman past, and it vigorously celebrates this fact—except when it comes to the Armenian genocide. Many of the Ottoman leaders who participated in the Armenian genocide went on to become officials of the modern Turkish state, and Turkey continues to profit from the confiscated land and property of the Armenian people.

Armenians will never forget. Nor will they forgive—until justice is served.

But governments and leaders, too, must speak out. Individuals, too, must raise their voices. Conscience must prevail.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues from the Armenia Issues Caucus to recognize the obvious and uncontested fact that during World War I and its aftermath, as many as 1.5 million Armenians died in the first genocide of the 20th century.

The question is not whether we should recognize this genocide, but why we have not done so already. The evidence is overwhelming. It has been set forth today by the previous speakers, as it has been set forth every April 24th, year after year, on the floor of this House.

Why do we not recognize that which is uncontested? We are told that there are geopolitical reasons why the truth must be shrouded. Well, Turkey would be a much better ally of America if Turkey recognized the truth. What kind of ally would Germany be if it had a government that denied the Holocaust? What kind of ally would America be if we denied that slavery occurred or claimed that we had not created great injustices to the Native American population, including, frankly, the genocide of certain Native American Tribes?

Turkey is an ally of America, but America has no greater ally than the truth. Nothing is more important than that America be recognized as being guided by the truth, and eternal truth, and not the geopolitics of the hour.

□ 1615

History will record that there are very few occasions in which the world consents or even a region of the world consents to the existence of a single superpower, and the world will not consent to our leadership unless that lead-

ership is guided by principle. We must put the truth first.

What if, for example, a new regime should arise in Germany and disclaim the Holocaust and demand that we here in Washington marched down to the Holocaust Museum and rip it apart brick by brick? The response should not be, oh, Germany, is an important and powerful country. The response should be that there is nothing more important to America than the truth. We must recognize the genocide, and we must recognize the needs of those who survived the genocide.

Last year when the President asked us for \$70 million in aid to Armenia, this Congress responded with \$90 million of aid, additional aid to help meet Armenia's security needs. Since its independence, this Congress has provided \$1.3 billion of aid to that new democracy, and this year again we must respond by providing the aid that Armenia needs, more than the President provides in his budget. We must make sure that we do not aid Azerbaijan as long as that country continues to blockade Armenia.

Finally, with regard to the proposed pipeline, the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline, we must make sure that is a pipeline of peace that unites Azerbaijan and Armenia as it flows through both of those countries into the Mediterranean Sea; and we must make sure that the Export-Import Bank does not risk our capital in creating a pipeline of war, a pipeline that deliberately circumvents Armenia and tries to create a new geopolitical situation in the Caucasus. We must recognize the truth. We must build toward peace, prosperity, and progress for Armenia and for the entire Caucasus region.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORBES). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I join my colleagues and the world in remembering those who suffered the horrifying events of the Armenian genocide. The tragedy of lost lives through ethnic cleansing must never be forgotten.

The Armenian genocide marked the beginning of a barbaric practice beginning in the 20th century. More than a million and a half Armenians were killed and forcibly departed. The Ottoman Turks brutally uprooted and systematically eliminated Armenians from their homeland. To this day, the Turkish Government continues to deny that millions of Armenians were killed simply because they were Armenian.

As an educator, I believe we must emphasize the role of education throughout the world. We must continue to forbid actions of racial intolerance and religious persecution which have led to so many cases of ethnic cleansing. The tragedies of the past 2

decades, including those in Cambodia, Rwanda, Kosovo, attest to this fact. We must continue teaching our children tolerance so the next generation is armed with the knowledge and the power to defeat racial and religious persecution wherever it arises.

We refuse to acknowledge and understand racial and religious intolerance. We are doomed to repeat the same tragedies again and again if we do not constantly use our voices and our prayers for a much better situation in the 21st century of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chair for this opportunity to commemorate the Armenian genocide. I also want to thank the many Armenian American organizations throughout the Nation that make celebration of terror and hopeful that it is never done again, not only for Armenians, but for every group of people, particularly those in California for their tremendous work on behalf of the Armenian Army community which is an absolutely wonderful group of people throughout the State.

I must say to the Turkish Government, you were not there when this was done, why cannot you say it was wrong, we did the wrong thing of our ancestors and get it on the book and get up to bat, just to use a baseball analogy? It just makes us sick when the people do not go back in history and say that should not have been done and it will not be done again.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we recently observed the 7th-month anniversary of the terrorist attacks that devastated our Nation on September 11, 2001. Today, I would like to continue to remember, recognize and honor our fellow citizens who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks on our Nation.

This list of over 3,000 names is comprised of many of the victims of the horrific attacks, including the firefighters and policemen who willingly gave their lives in an attempt to rescue others. This effort will continue until each name on this list has been read on the House floor and entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this important undertaking to show that this House and our Nation honors our fallen brothers and sisters.

Lars P. Qualben; Lincoln Quappe; Patrick J. Quigley, IV; Beth Ann Quigley; Michael Quilty; Ricardo Quinn; James Quinn; Carol Rabalais; Christopher Peter A. Racaniello; Leonard Ragaglia; Eugene J. Raggio; Michael Ragusa; Peter F. Raimondi; Lisa J. Raines; Harry Raines; Ehtesham U.

Raja; Valsa Raju; Edward Rall; Luke Rambousek; Maria Isabel Ramirez; Harry Ramos; Deborah Ramsaur; Lorenzo Ramzey; Alfred Todd Rancke; Adam David Rand; Jonathan C. Randall; Shreyas Ranganath; Faina Rapoport; Rhonda Rasmussen; Robert Arthur Rasmussen; Ameenia Rasool; Roger Mark Rasweiler; Marsha Dianah Ratchford; David Alan James Rathkey; William R. Raub; Gerard Rauzi; Alexey Razuvaev; Gregory Reda; Sarah Redheffer; Michele Marie Reed; Judith A. Reese; Donald J. Regan; Robert Regan; Thomas M. Regan; Christian Regenhart; Howard Reich; Gregory Reidy; James B. Reilly; Kevin Reilly; Timothy E. Reilly; Joseph Reina; Thomas Barnes Reinig; Frank B. Reisman; Joshua Scott Reiss; Karen C. Renda; John Armand Reo; Richard C. Rescorla; John Resta; Sylvia San Pio Resta; Martha Reszke; David Retik; Todd Reuben; Eduvigis "Eddie" Reyes; Bruce Reynolds; John Frederick Rhodes, Jr.; Francis S. Riccardelli; Rudolph N. Riccio; David Rice; Kenneth F. Rice, III; Eileen M. Rice; Vernon Richard; Cecelia E. Richard; Michael Richards; Claude "Dan" Richards; Venesha O. Richards; Gregory Richards; James Riches; Alan Jay Richman; John M. Rigo; James Riley; Frederick Rimmele; Theresa "Ginger" Risco; Rose Mary Riso; Moises N. Rivas; Joseph Rivelli, Jr.; Isaias Rivera; Linda I. Rivera; Carmen A. Rivera; Juan Rivera; David Rivers; Joseph R. Rivero; Paul Rizza; Stephen Louis Roach; Joseph Roberto; Michael Roberts; Michael Edward Roberts; Leo Roberts; Donald W. Robertson, Jr.; Catherina Robinson; Jeffrey Robinson; Michell Robotham; Donald Arthur Robson; Antonio Augusto Tome Rocha; Raymond J. Rocha; Laura Rockefeller; John M. Rodak; Roseann Rodgers-Lang; Antonio Jose Carrusca Rodrigues; Anthony Rodriguez; Richard Rodriguez; Carmen Rodriguez; Carlos Cortez Rodriguez; Gregory Rodriguez; Marsha A. Rodriguez; David B. Rodriguez-Vargas; Jose Rodriguez; Matthew Rogan; Jean Roger; Karlie Rogers; Scott Rohner; Keith Roma; Joseph M. Romagnolo; Elvin Santiago Romero; Efrain Franco Romero, Sr.; James A. Romito; Sean Rooney; Eric Thomas Ropiteau; Angela Rosario; Aida Rosario; Mark Harlan Rosen; Sheryl Lynn Rosenbaum; Brooke David Rosenbaum; Linda Rosenbaum; Lloyd D. Rosenberg; Mark Louis Rosenberg; Joshua Rosenblum; Andrew I. Rosenblum; Joshua Rosenthal; Richard David Rosenthal; Philip Rosenzweig; Richard Barry Ross; Daniel Rossetti; Norman Rossinow; Nicholas Rossomando; Michael Craig Rothberg; Mark Rothenberg; Donna Marie Rothenberg; James M. Roux; Nicholas Rowe; Edward Rowenhorst; Judy Rowlett; Timothy Roy; Behzad Roya; Paul Ruback; Ronald J. Ruben; Joanne Rubino; David M. Ruddle; James Ruffin; Bart J. Ruggiere; Susan Ann Ruggiero; Adam K. Ruhalter; Gilbert Ruiz; Obdulio Ruiz-Diaz; Stephen P. Russell; Robert E. Russell; Steven

Harris Russin; Michael Thomas Russo, Sr.; Wayne Alan Russo; William R. Ruth; John Joseph Ryan; Matthew L. Ryan; Edward Ryan; Jonathan Stephan Ryan; Tatiana Ryjova; Christina Sunga Ryook; Jason E. Sabbag; Thomas E. Sabella; Scott Saber; Charles E. Sabin; Joseph F. Sacerdote; Jessica Sachs; Francis John Sadocha; Joud Elie Safi; Brock Safronoff; Art Saiya; Edward Saiya; Kalyan K. Sakar; Marjorie C. Salamone; John Patrick Salamone; Juan Salas; Hernando R. Salas; Esmerlin Salcedo; John Salvatore Salerno; Rahma Salie; Richard L. Salinardi; Anne Marie Ferreira Sallerin; Wayne Saloman; Nolbert Salomon; Catherin Salter; Frank G. Salvaterra; Paul Salvio; Samuel R. Salvo; Rena Sam-Dinnoo; Carlos Samaniego; John Sammartino; Maryann Samone; James Kenneth Samuel, Jr.; Rena San Dinoo; Michael San Phillip; Hugo Sanay-Perafiel; Jesus Sanchez; Alva Jeffries Sanchez; Jacquelyn Sanchez; Eric Sand; Stacey Sanders; Herman S. Sandler; James Sands, Jr.; Angela M. Santana; Ayleen J. Santiago; Kirsten Santiago; Maria Theresa Santillan; Susan G. Santo; Christopher Santora; John Santore; Mario Santoro; Rafael Humberto Santos; Rufino Condrado F. Santos; Dominick Santos; Victor J. Saracini; Kalyan K. Sarkar; Chappelle Sarker; Paul F. Sarle; Deepika K. Sattaluri.

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Gregory Saucedo; Susan Sauer; Anthony Savas; Vladimir Savinkin; Jackie Sayegh; John Sbarbaro; Dawn Elizabeth Scala; David M. Scales; Robert Louis "Rob" Scandole; Thomas Scaracio; Michelle Scarpitta; Dennis Scauso; John Schardt; John Scharf; Fred Claude Scheffold, Jr.; Angela Scheinberg; Scott M. Schertzer; Sean Schielke; Steven Francis Schlag; Robert Allan Schlegel; Jon S. Schlissel; Ian Schneider; Thomas Schoales; Frank G. Schott; Gerard P. Schrang; Jeffrey Schreier; John T. Schroeder; Susan Kennedy Schuler; Edward W. Schunk; Mark Schurmeier; Mark Schwartz; Clarin Schwartz; John Burkhardt Schwartz; Adrienne Scibetta; Raphael Scorca; Janice Scott; Randolph Scott; Christopher Scudder; Arthur Warren Scullin; Michael H. Seaman; Margaret Seeliger; Carlos Segarra; Jason Sekzer; Mary Grace Selco; Matthew Carmen Sellitto; Michael L. Selves; Howard Selwyn; Larry J. Senko; Marc Seplin; Arturo Sereno; Frank Serrano; Marian Serva; Alena Sesinova; Adele Sessa; Situ Sewnarine; Karen Lynn Seymour-Dietrich; Davis G. "Deeg" Sezna, Jr.; Thomas J. Sgroi; Jayesh Shah; Khalid Mohammad Shahid; Mohammed Shajahan; Gary Shamay; Earl Richard Shanahan; Shiv Shankar; Dan Frederic Shanower; Huang Shaoxiang; Liang Shaozhen; Wang Shaozhang; L. Kadaba Shashikiran; Neil Shastri; Kathryn Anne Shatzoff; Barbara A. Shaw; Jeffery J. Shaw; Robert John Shay, Jr.; Daniel James Shea; Joseph Patrick